

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /117 W

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R 081400Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8911

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 02545

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, GW

SUBJECT: POLISH REACTION TO BRANDT RESIGNATION

REF: WARSAW 6949

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC GOVERNMENT REACTION SO FAR TO BRANDT'S ANNOUNCEMENT. HOWEVER, POLISH CENTRAL PRESS EDITORIALS ON MAY 8 EXPRESSED SURPRISE, PRAISE FOR BRANDT'S COURAGEOUS REDIRECTION OF GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND HOPE THAT HIS OSTPOLITIK WILL BE CONTINUED, IN THE INTERESTS OF FRG-POLISH RELATIONS AND OF EUROPEAN DETENTE. RYSZARD WOJNA, WRITING IN THE TRYBUNA LUDU, BLAMES THE SPRINGERPRESS AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF DENTENTE FOR BRANDT'S DOWNFALL. HOWEVER, ZYCIE WARSZAWY'S BONN CORRESPONDENT REPORTS A SENTIMENT CIRCULATING THERE THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S DECISION WAS PRIMARILY MOTIVATED BY PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS. IN ANY CASE, WOJNA, CITING THE SPD/FDP COALITION'S UNCHANGED MAJORITY, ITS JOINT SUPPORT OF SCHMIDT'S CANDIDACY AND SCHEEL'S PER-  
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SONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE TALKS WITH POLAND, DECLARES THAT THE

POSSIBILITIES OF FRG-POLISH NORMALIZATION REMAIN UNCHANGED.

2. IN A LEAD EDITORIAL ON THE "DAY OF VICTORY" IN EUROPE, TRYBUNA LUDU MAKES A VEILED REFERENCE TO THE STALEMATED NORMALIZATION TALKS, STATING THAT THE TASK REMAINS TO GIVE MEANING TO FRG-POLISH RELATIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE IN EUROPE. POLAND, ACCORDING TO THE EDITORIAL, HOLDS TO THIS POSITION AND AWAITS "RECIPROCATION" FROM BONN.

3. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CZYREK VOICED OBVIOUS POLISH CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE COURSE OF OSTPOLITIK AT THE MEETING TO WHICH HE HASTILY SUMMONED FRG AMBASSADOR REUTE ON MAY 7, THE FRG DCM HAS TOLD US. SIMILAR EXPRESSION OF SURPRISE, REGRET, AND APPREHENSION HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED TO US BY OTHER POLISH OFFICIALS.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT BRANDT ENJOYED AN OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC POPULARITY IN POLAND THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR MOST GERMANS TO ACHIEVE. THE SHOCK OF HIS DEPARTURE WILL BE DEEP AND PROFOUND IN POLAND WHERE THE SCARS OF GERMAN BEHAVIOR IN WORLD WAR II ARE BURNED DEEPER INTO THE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN EUROPE. BRANDT, THROUGH HIS POLICIES AND HIS PERSONAL HISTORY AND IMAGE, DID MORE TO IMPROVE FRG-POLISH RELATIONS THAN MOST POLES WOULD HAVE BELIEVED POSSIBLE. ON THE OFFICIAL LEVEL, THE PAIN OF HIS DEPARTURE IS LIKELY TO BE PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN VIEW OF THE DETERIORATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON CREDITS AND REPATRIATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS BECAUSE OF A HARDENING OF THE POLISH POSITION JUST WHEN AGREEMENT HAD SEEMED WITHIN REACH. GOP AWARENESS OF THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SCHMIDT WILL BE LESS FORTHCOMING THAN BRANDT ON CREDITS AND INDEMNIFICATION MUST MAKE THE EARLIER GERMAN OFFERS SEEM MORE ATTRACTIVE IN RETROSPECT.  
DAVIES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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